

MS154753.1

PATENT

CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being faxed to 703-872-9306 on the date shown below to Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

Date: 1/5/04Heather Holmes  
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## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re patent application of:

Applicant(s): Eric W. Nace *et al.*

Examiner: Yernane M. Gerezgiher

Serial No: 09/633,326

Art Unit: 2142

Filing Date: August 7, 2000

Title: SYSTEM AND METHOD PROVIDING CONTINUAL RATE REQUESTS

Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

## REPLY TO OFFICE ACTION DATED SEPTEMBER 8, 2003

Dear Sir:

Favorable reconsideration of the above-identified patent application is respectfully requested in view of the comments below.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge \$110.00 for a one-month extension of time to Deposit Account No. 50-1063 (Reference No. MSFTP124US).

01/13/2004 SFORD1 00000001 501063 09633326

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**V. CONCLUSION**

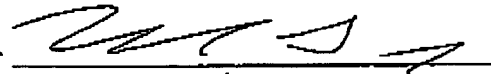
The present application is believed to be in condition for allowance in view of the above comments. A prompt action to such end is earnestly solicited.

In the event any fees are due in connection with this document, the Commissioner is authorized to charge those fees to Deposit Account No. 50-1063.

Should the Examiner believe a telephone interview would be helpful to expedite favorable prosecution, the Examiner is invited to contact applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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